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SENSITIVE

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SUBJECT: CROATIA PROMOTES REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR TRANSPORT OF
RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY

11. (U) The Croatian State Institute for Radiation Protection, and the Office for Nuclear Safety, organized a March 20-21 meeting of representatives from Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia to discuss cooperation in the control of transport of heavy metal waste and shipments contaminated by radioactive substances or containing a radioactive source. Institute head Dragan Kubelka told the press that the group plans to draw up an international agreement on information exchange, and that this would be the first such agreement in Europe. There are plans to expand it to include Albania, Turkey, Greece and Romania.

12. (SBU) Embassy Zagreb's EXBS advisor has encouraged this type of cooperation over the past year, working closely with both offices. At a March 21 reception for regional participants at the meeting, both the Nuclear Safety and the Radiation Protection office directors expressed gratitude for ongoing EXBS support but also noted their pride in regional ownership of this initiative, which was planned and conducted without U.S. or EU direction or involvement. EXBS programs are a critical component in building the capacity and confidence necessary for this kind of responsible regional leadership.

BRADTKE